

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL - CONTRACT FUNDING AID/LA-C-
1195, ARNOLD ELIOT, PROJECT 514-1751

REF:A. STATE 185142 B. STATE 102795

1. EMBASSY AGREES TO TERMINATION OF ELIOT CONTRACT AUGUST 31, BUT WITH STIPULATION THAT NO RPT NO REPLACEMENT AS SUCH BE CONTRACTED, BUT THAT CONCEPT OF REGIONAL TECHNICIAN AS PROPOSED REF B. BE IMPLEMENTED.

2. WE DO NOT SHARE THE "PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT" CITED IN PARA 2 REF. A THAT ELIOT "HAS NOT DISPLAYED THE INITIATIVE AND FOLLOW-UP NECESSARY TO STIMULATE HOST COUNTRY ACTION". IN OUR VIEW SUCH A JUDGEMENT REVEALS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOC ORGANIZATIONAL FACTS OF LIFE DURING ELIOT'S TIME HERE. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE GOC DECISION TO CENTRALIZE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WAS MADE WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF USG. MISSION POLICY HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE TO SUPPORT THAT REORGANIZATION AND TO THE EXTENT THAT FORMER PROJECTS WITH ENTITIES OTHER THAN THE AG'S OFFICE DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THAT GOAL, THEY HAVE BEEN TERMINATED. THIS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED SOME COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS. ON THE OTHER HAND,
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THE GOC REORGANIZATION HAS BEEN FRAUGHT WITH DELAYS AND AS A RESULT, GOC DECISION MAKERS HAVE NOT CONCENTRATED ON COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS NOR HAVE THEY EMPLOYED QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS WITH WHOM ELIOT COULD WORK. THUS IT IS UNWARRANTED AND UNFAIR TO HOLD ELIOT RESPONSIBLE FOR A SITUATION OVER WHICH HE (OR ANY OTHER COMMUNICATION ADVISOR FOR THAT MATTER) COULD HAVE NO CONTROL OR INFLUENCE.

3. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE, THEREFORE, THAT THE MISSION'S DECISION TO AGREE TO THE TERMINATION OF ELIOT'S CONTRACT IS COMPLETELY DIVORCED FROM THE RATIONALE GIVEN IN REF A, AND IS INSTEAD BASED ON A REVALUATION OF MISSION REQUIREMENTS. THE GOC REORGANIZATION HAS SOMEWHAT SIMPLIFIED AND RATIONALIZED NARCOTICS COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS AND WE NOW FEEL THAT A FULL-TIME ADVISOR IS NOT JUSTIFIED. SUCH NEEDS HERE CAN BE HANDLED ON A PART-TIME BASIS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE PERCEIVE NO JUSTIFICATION TO RECRUIT A REPLACEMENT FOR ELIOT AS SUCH, ALL THE MORE SO IN VIEW OF THE TIME AND EXPENSE INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY IF THE NEW CONTRACTOR HAS TO BE GIVEN SPANISH LANGUAGE TRAINING.

4. INSTEAD, MISSION REQUESTS THAT THE REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERT CONCEPT RAISED IN REF B BE IMPLEMENTED AND THAT A QUALIFIED PERSON BE RECRUITED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE GAP IN ADVISOR SERVICES. IF NECESSARY DURING INTERIM BETWEEN TERMINATION OF ELIOT CONTRACT AND AVAILABILITY OF REGIONAL ADVISOR, EMBASSY WILL REQUEST SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE MENTIONED REF.A.
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